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I only wrote out the accompaniment for Brunetti, and retained my own part in my head."

He now, at last, found it possible, in consequence of his increased reputation, to gain an independent, though small and precarious livelihood for himself, his wife, and children. He devoted himself with the utmost assiduity to the giving of lessons and of concerts, and, in the small intervals of wearied leisure, to his immortal compositions. All his best-known operas were produced during this period of ten years, and many of his other greatest works. These years were undeniably the happiest of his life; yet one traces in the letters — perhaps by reading between the lines — the sadness which a man of Mozart's sensibility can never wholly escape, still less when placed in such untoward circumstances. His letters to his wife are always cheerful and happy.

Others than the lovers of Mozart will not think the time wasted which is spent on these volumes. Their value to the general reader is much increased by a full and well-arranged Index, and by the notes of the German editor. The labors of the English translator are also apparently well performed. We have not, however, had the opportunity of comparing her work with the originals, and occasional misconceptions and unnecessary freedoms in her translations of the letters in Italian, the originals of which she gives, are of a character to suggest possible inaccuracies in the translations from the German. But they read easily and agreeably.

13. — *The Life and Public Services of Samuel Adams, being a Narrative of his Acts and Opinions and of his Agency in producing and forwarding the American Revolution, with Extracts from his Correspondence, State Papers, and Political Essays.* By WILLIAM V. WELLS. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1865. 3 vols. 8vo.

SAMUEL ADAMS was born in Boston, September 16 (O. S.), 1722, and died there, October 2, 1803. In 1747, feeling that the "present political state affords matter for a variety of thoughts of peculiar importance to the good people of New England," he united with several "Whigs who advocated the rights of the people against those measures of government which were supposed to infringe upon the privileges of the Province secured by charter," in forming a "political club," and editing "The Public Advertiser," a weekly paper devoted "to whatever may be adapted to state and defend the rights and liberties of mankind." In 1797, a month after Washington had made his last annual speech to Congress as President, he also made his last annual speech to the Legis-

lature as Governor of Massachusetts. "Having arrived," he says, "to a stage of life marked in holy writ and verified by constant experience as a time of labor and sorrow, it is highly proper, both upon my own account and that of the public, to decline the future suffrages of my fellow-citizens for the office I have now the honor to sustain." During nearly the whole of this half-century, which covers the rise, development, and completion of the Revolution, the beginning and end of the Confederation, the adoption of the Constitution, and that wise administration of Washington which gave it its first stronghold upon the affections of the nation, Adams was a close observer and leading actor in public events. His state papers and essays in the public journals, which would fill volumes, contain the most advanced political doctrines of the times as they presented themselves to thinkers and actors for decision and application. It is impossible to touch upon the history of Massachusetts without meeting his name. He took a leading part in the Congress that separated us from England; and, having from the beginning cast in his lot with his country, never shrunk from the labor, the sacrifices, or the perils which his decision involved.

Till now the story of this remarkable life has never been told, although the materials for it were abundant. But unfortunately those materials were of a kind which, in a country like ours, wherein family archives are scarcely known, it is almost impossible to preserve. Mr. Adams was a man of method, and at his death the records of his long public career were found accurately filed and labelled, as they had passed year by year from his portfolio to the shelf. Then began the slow and sure transitions by which so many of the most important documents of American history have been destroyed. First they passed, to awaken doubt and dismay, into the hands of a biographer. Next to unappreciating relatives, who gave them over to neglect and dust; and then they became the prey of those keen-scented, persistent sleuth-hounds, the autograph collectors, for whom an archive is but a curiosity-shop, and an historical document a thing to be cut up into samples, and deprived of every characteristic which gave it historical value. Rats, mice, moths, and children seldom fail to claim their share in the work of destruction; but with Adams's papers they were all outstripped by an industrious servant-girl, who, like Hutchinson, finding them highly inflammable, used them to feed the fire with. Still, so marvellous was this man's industry, that, when the attention of a grandson, Samuel Adams Wells, was first called to the study of his grandfather's history, enough was yet left of his letters and newspaper articles, and drafts of state papers, to form the groundwork of an accurate biography. But before he could bring the pious work to a close he died, and soon after

all that remained of the Adams papers passed into the hands of Mr. Bancroft. How effectively he has used them for the illustration of that part of his work to which they belong, our readers already know. It is upon these that the present work is founded.

And coming more directly to this work, we congratulate the author upon having had the courage to make it a full one. A single volume might have found more purchasers, but a single volume could not have told the story of such a life. A life of external and visible action, like Nelson's, may be compressed by a skilful hand within a narrow compass. But a life of thought manifested by action, and action chiefly displayed by its control over the will and guidance of the thoughts of others, requires a full and minute exposition. By great industry, a wide range of research, and a judicious use of materials which a less reverential biographer might have overlooked or hesitated to use, Mr. Wells has succeeded in showing what his illustrious ancestor was, as well as what he did, and in thus giving him his true place in American history, as a man of ideas as well as a skilful leader. Would that all our eminent men had been as fortunate !

We rejoice for still another reason that this work is so complete. Samuel Adams has often been called the last of the Puritans, and at this moment, when New England, the great creation of the Puritans, is brought so arrogantly to the bar, it is well for us to be reminded what manner of men those Puritans were.

The most remarkable trait of Adams's character was his consistency. From the beginning of his career to the end of it he was still the same. Whatever he accepted as a principle he accepted also as a rule of life, conforming himself to it in all things and in all situations. In 1766 the question of the abolition of slavery was agitated in Massachusetts, and Adams advocated it. At about the same time a female slave was given to his wife. "A slave cannot live in my house," said Adams when he was told of it; "if she comes, she must be free." And accordingly she was made free and lived with him as a free woman till her death. His housekeeping in Boston was characterized by a frugal simplicity. He preserved the same simplicity in luxurious Philadelphia. When, in his old age, he became Governor of Massachusetts, a carriage and horses were given him by some of his personal and political friends. The first use that he made of them was to drive with his wife to his old friend, Constable Hewes's, and there, giving his place in the chariot to Mrs. Hewes, sit himself down for his daily chat while the two old ladies were enjoying the new luxury.

The same consistency appears in his political theories. In his college "part" he maintained the right "to resist the supreme magistrate

if the commonwealth cannot be otherwise preserved"; and from the early beginning to the late evening of his public career, all that he wrote or said or did was in harmony with this principle. His belief in the people, also, was a life-long belief, so strongly asserted, indeed, as to excite in some minds a suspicion of demagogism. But when we see it running through his whole career, in the same open channel, preserving everywhere the freshness of his sympathies and his faith, and never diverted to his own uses, it is impossible to confound it with that vile spirit from which the want of moral power has so often failed to preserve the intellectually great.

His writings, as we have already hinted, would fill volumes. Some idea of the extent of them may be formed from the fact that, while a great many can no longer be traced through the journals in which they originally appeared, twenty-five of the different signatures under which he wrote have been recovered, some of them extending through several consecutive years. These pieces, of course, were for the most part controversial. The style is simple, direct, and natural, flowing with an easy current, and, even where the subject deepens, lucid and distinct. An elaborate analysis might extract from them a logical series of harmonious principles, wherein few, if any, of the most advanced political opinions of the age would be found wanting.

Another class of writings in which his pen was employed more frequently than that of almost any of his contemporaries was those state papers which form the most important part of the American literature of the eighteenth century. Chatham's opinion of our Congressional state papers is well known. Those of some of the local conventions and legislatures are equally deserving of admiration. In the Massachusetts General Court Samuel Adams was almost constantly employed as draughtsman. If to these public duties we add his extensive correspondence with the leading men of other Colonies and the friends of the Colonies in England, we shall be able to form some idea of the laborious life he led.

His influence over men is another of the facts which these volumes bring out in strong light. In part it may have been an influence of sympathy, for he seems to have been the object of strong affections. But in a far greater degree it was the influence of superior intellectual power combined with superior moral power. Men looked up to him, because they felt that he was still somewhat in advance of them, and they trusted him because it was evident that in all that he did he was governed by a profound sense of duty, both to God and man. Seldom has conscience borne such a part in the conduct of public men.

Of the important measures claimed for him by his biographer, the most important was the establishment of Committees of Correspondence. "Engines," writes Dana to Gerry, "which operated with more energy and consistency than any others which were put in motion in the commencement of our opposition, they may be called the cornerstone of our Revolution or new empire." The first germ of these committees was the appointment (June 14, 1764) by the Massachusetts Assembly, and at Adams's suggestion, of a committee to correspond with the several Assemblies on the continent for the purpose of securing concerted action in the defence of Colonial rights. This example was followed by Rhode Island on the 30th of July, and by New York on the 18th of October. From this to the Massachusetts committee of 1772 which "organized a province," and the Virginia committee of 1773 which "promoted a confederacy," the transition was so natural that we should hesitate to call it by that name.

But it is not an analysis of Mr. Wells's volumes that we are endeavoring to give. We propose, rather, to call the attention of our readers to the importance of their subject and the kind of information to be drawn from them. It is essential to a republic, says Macchiavelli, to be carried back from time to time to the principles it started from. It is no less essential, he might have added, to pass in frequent review the lives of the men by whom those principles were planted and developed. It is well, perhaps, for Samuel Adams, that he has had to wait so long for his true place to be assigned him. The great men with whom he acted are gradually settling into their niches; and as we look at them side by side in the grand gallery of American history, we are enabled to judge them by the common standard of their age, and give to each his due share of gratitude and reverence. Mr. Wells has sometimes, it seems to us, claimed a little more for his ancestor than is strictly his due. He has sometimes, perhaps, seen other men somewhat too absolutely through Adams's spectacles. There are questions upon which we would fain suspend our judgment until Hancock has found as accurate and conscientious a biographer as Adams has done. But we do not lay this at Mr. Wells's door as a sin. We have very little faith in what is commonly called historical impartiality, which in most cases is but another word for historical infidelity. Every history, whether of the individual or of those aggregates of individuals which form nations, is the origin, growth, and succession of principles, man himself seeming sometimes little else than the soil wherein they are planted, and at others the husbandman that watches and tills them. Indifference to the man is indifference to the principle.

Clearness, calmness, and simplicity are the characteristics of Mr.

Wells's style. It is manly, but not very vigorous; natural, but not very graceful; easy to read, but deficient in graphic power and narrative movement. Its chief merit is the absence of all affectation, and a certain prepossessing tone of earnestness, which springs evidently from the warmth of the writer's convictions. His work belongs, in short, to that class — far too small a one — of careful, candid, calm, and exhaustive biographies, in which the writer loves and reveres his hero too much to put himself irreverently in his hero's place. It would be an injustice to the publishers not to mention the excellent typographical execution of these volumes, and to the author not to thank him for the admirable chronological summary which he has prefixed to each.

14. — *Across the Continent: a Summer's Journey to the Rocky Mountains, the Mormons, and the Pacific States, with Speaker Colfax.* By SAMUEL BOWLES, Editor of the Springfield (Mass.) Republican. Springfield, Mass.: Samuel Bowles & Co. 1865.

THIS volume is the record of a journey, in the summer of 1865, through the States and Territories of Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Dacotah, Utah, Nevada, California, Oregon, and Washington. The party consisted of Mr. Colfax, Speaker of the national House of Representatives, and three friends connected with different public journals; — Mr. Bross of the Chicago Tribune; Mr. Richardson, correspondent of the New York Tribune; and Mr. Samuel Bowles of the Springfield Republican. The design of the trip was simply for recreation, health, and observation; but as it proceeded it grew to dimensions of public significance. The people who inhabit the regions visited are hospitable by habit; and they were not slow to appreciate also the advantage to themselves of the report which would be made by these gentlemen. Accordingly the trip soon became *quasi* public in its character, and the travellers were everywhere received as public guests. The demonstrations in favor of Mr. Colfax, in particular, amounted to a long-continued ovation. It was a matter of course that the gentlemen of the press should send back letters to their respective journals. Those of Mr. Bowles were widely copied, both at the East and in the Pacific States; and in the volume before us we have them collected together, pruned of some minor details, and with the addition, by way of supplement, of extracts from speeches made by Mr. Colfax upon the route, and some papers from different persons upon subjects treated of in the letters.

In point of style, these letters have the freshness and freedom which